

### **What is the DV program?**

The annual Diversity Immigrant Visa Program is mandated by the United States Congress and administered and conducted by the Department of State based on U.S. law. The law provides for a class of immigrants known as “diversity immigrants,” with visas made available to persons from countries with historically low rates of immigration to the United States. For fiscal year 2013 (known as DV-2013), 50,000 diversity visas will be available.

### **How does the DV work?**

Worldwide, people from qualifying countries submit their entries at [www.dvlottery.state.gov](http://www.dvlottery.state.gov) during a 30 day time period, which occurs around the same time each year. In 2011, this period will start on October 4 and will end at noon EDT on November 5. Applicants will be selected randomly by a computer at the Kentucky Consular Center. Using the confirmation number that is issued at the time of registration, participants can check the dvlottery website starting May 1, 2012, to see if they’ve been selected. If you’re selected, the website will give you instructions on how to continue the process. You must print this confirmation screen for your records and ensure that you retain your confirmation number, because the sole means of informing you of your selection for DV-2013 will be by entering your unique confirmation number and personal information in the Entrant Status Check.

### **Why are you publicizing DV?**

We want to increase awareness about the rules for DV, the application process, and help Albanians make smart choices about whether to participate in the DV lottery.

There are some mistakes, such as registering multiple times or omitting a member of your family, that result in automatic disqualification. We hate to see people disqualified for these types of easy-to-avoid errors, so we hope to help Albanians avoid making these simple errors by reviewing the rules published in Albanian at [albanian.tirana.usembassy.gov](http://albanian.tirana.usembassy.gov).

Additionally, every year, there are Albanians who are exploited by websites or individuals who purport to represent the U.S. Government. There is no fee to enter the DV, and the only U.S. government websites that are official end with “.gov”. We understand that many Albanians don’t speak English and may need someone to help them with their DV entry. That’s fine, but Albanians should choose someone who is trustworthy and who won’t exploit them by charging crazy fees to complete their entry. (Remember, the U.S. government charges NO fees for you to enter the DV!) The Embassy and U.S. government do not endorse any notaries, expeditors, facilitators, or any third parties. No matter who fills out your entry, the person whose name is on the entry should keep the confirmation number, because they will need this number to check and see if they’ve won.

### **Where should people register?**

The only way to register for the DV is by entering at [www.dvlottery.state.gov](http://www.dvlottery.state.gov). There’s no fee to enter, but read the instructions (available in Albanian at <http://albanian.tirana.usembassy.gov/dv.html>) and make sure that you qualify and understand how to complete the entry process correct *before* you complete the entry form. If you don’t meet the qualifications, you will not receive a visa even if you are selected.

### **How will I know about the official notification?**

Official notification from the U.S. Department of State will be made ONLY through Entrant Status Check, available from May 1, 2012 on the E-DV website [www.dvlottery.state.gov](http://www.dvlottery.state.gov). You will need to enter your confirmation number, which you received after the successful DV entry, in the Entrant Status Check website [www.dvlottery.state.gov](http://www.dvlottery.state.gov). Do not lose your confirmation number. It is the ONLY way that you can check if you were selected for the DV lottery. Neither the Embassy nor the U.S. Department of State can provide you with the number if you lose it. The U.S. Department of State will NOT be mailing out notification letters. Entrants selected in the random drawing will NOT be notified of their selection by e-mail.

### **Does everyone selected by the computer automatically qualify?**

No. In order to qualify for the DV, applicants all over the world must meet very strict educational or professional eligibility requirements. Applicants should make smart choices about whether or not they should enter the DV. Albanians who have not completed a high school education that's at least equivalent to a U.S. high school education (4 years, full time) won't qualify based on education. Part time and correspondence diplomas don't qualify for the DV, even those that are from 5 year programs. Not all vocational diplomas will qualify. Although in rare cases, it is possible to qualify based on work experience, the professions that can be used for this experience almost always require a level of education above the high school education required by the DV. Even if someone is selected by the computer, if they don't meet the minimum qualifications, they can't receive a visa through DV.

### **Which education qualifies for the DV?**

Based on the education requirement, which should be minimally equivalent to a U.S. high school education (4 years, full time), Albanians who have not completed a full time high school education will not qualify for the Diversity Visa. Part time high school diplomas – without break from work, night school, or correspondence — including five year programs or long-term programs (part time, without break from work, night school, or correspondence) don't qualify for the DV. Additionally, three year vocational high school degrees do not qualify for the DV. If you completed a portion of high school with the part time system, and another portion of high school with the full time system, this diploma will not qualify for the DV.

### **You've said that I have to include all members of my family. What if I have a child who doesn't live with me or I'm divorcing my spouse?**

All children, step-children, and adopted children under 21 must be included, even if they don't live with you. If you're not legally separated or legally divorced from your spouse, you must include him or her in the entry. Remember, just because someone is included in the entry does not mean that they are obligated to participate in the application process or immigrate to the United States. However, if you do not include the required family members in your application, it will result in your disqualification. You should not include a future spouse in the electronic entry if your current civil status at the time of the electronic entry is single, because it will result in disqualification of the principal applicant and refusal of all visas in the case at the time of the

visa interview. If your family members are U.S. citizens or LPRs at the time you enter the DV, you do not need to include them in your application.

**If I am selected for the DV program, where do I pay the DV fees?**

You will pay the processing DV fees only on the same day of your formal interview in the Consular Section, unless you are already in the U.S.A. If your interview will be in the Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy in Tirana, you will have to pay the fee the day of your interview at the Embassy. Please do not be a victim of fraudulent emails that ask you to send money to a named individual by mail or by services such as Western Union.

**Will the American government pay for my lodging in the US, help me find a job, or give me a subsidy to help me get started?**

No, DV applicants do not receive any type of subsidy or federal assistance. However, we want you to succeed in America and enjoy as smooth a transition as possible, so in some cases, we may ask you to find a sponsor who will agree to help you when you first arrive. DV offers those who are randomly selected a great opportunity to immigrate and start a new life in the United States.